

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP

11 South Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
46204  
(317) 236-1313  
(317) 231-7433 Fax

*IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE*

*Group:* 3636 }  
 }  
*Confirmation No.:* 9518 }  
 }  
*Application No.:* 10/688,174 }  
 }  
*Invention:* RETRACTABLE COUPLING }  
 APPARATUS }  
 }  
*Applicant:* Boyle, Donald C. }  
 }  
*Filed:* 16 October 2003 }  
 }  
*Attorney* }  
*Docket:* 2835-73549 }  
 }  
*Examiner:* Barfield, Anthony Derrell }

**DATED October 09, 2006**

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA: 22313-1450

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed August 09, 2006.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.